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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. LEPESHKO (Belarus)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions (item 100):

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action."

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. At its 56th plenary meeting, on 14 November 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee and by 70 votes to 24, with 42 abstentions, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the

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* The report of the Committee on item 100 will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/49/610 and Add.1-5).

item entitled "Capital punishment" and to allocate it to the Third Committee as sub-item (e) of agenda item 100.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 30 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/57 and Corr.1);

(b) Letter dated 28 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/58);

(c) Letter dated 15 February 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/75-S/1994/180);

(d) Letter dated 20 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/182);

(e) Letter dated 27 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/206);

(f) Letter dated 7 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/220);

(g) Letter dated 7 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/221);

(h) Letter dated 19 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/265);

(i) Letter dated 15 July 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of India and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/271);

(j) Letter dated 26 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/282);

(k) Letter dated 26 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/283);

(l) Letter dated 26 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/286);

(m) Letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the documents adopted by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/844 and Corr.1);

(n) Letter dated 29 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/292);

(o) Letter dated 4 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/298);

(p) Letter dated 8 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/304);

(q) Letter dated 15 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/386);

(r) Letter dated 15 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/422-S/1994/1086);

(s) Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/532-S/1994/1179);

(t) Note verbale dated 25 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/591).

4. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 100 (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee; 1/

(b) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; 2/

(c) Report of the Committee against Torture; 3/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 40, vols. I and II (A/49/40).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/49/41).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/49/44).

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on preparation of a plan of action for a United Nations decade for human rights education (A/49/261-E/1994/110 and Add.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/49/364);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/49/405);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/49/408);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/49/409);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/49/484 and Add.1);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/49/537);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a resolution of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/49/642);

(l) Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 4/

(m) Letter dated 12 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/228-S/1994/827);

(n) Letter dated 18 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/264-E/1994/113);

(o) Letter dated 23 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/426);

(p) Letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/5);

(q) Letter dated 12 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/6).

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 3 (E/1994/23).

5. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 100 (b):

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; 5/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/49/321);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (A/49/410);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/49/415 and Add.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the rule of law (A/49/512);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on current geographical distribution of posts in the staff of the Centre for Human Rights (A/49/545);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights (A/49/582);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat (A/49/595);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/49/653);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/49/675 and Corr.1);

(k) Letter dated 22 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/188);

(l) Letter dated 12 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/228);

(m) Letter dated 18 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/264-E/1994/113);

(n) Letter dated 1 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/293);

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/49/36).

(o) Letter dated 12 August 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/311);

(p) Letter dated 24 August 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/337);

(q) Letter dated 6 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/366);

(r) Letter dated 22 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/416);

(s) Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/528);

(t) Letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/5);

(u) Letter dated 14 October 1994 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/9);

(v) Letter dated 26 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/11);

(w) Letter dated 11 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/17);

(x) Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/24).

6. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 100 (c):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (A/49/508-S/1994/1157 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/49/513);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/49/514 and Add.1 and 2);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (A/49/538);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/49/539);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba (A/49/544);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/49/594 and Add.1);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/49/635 and Add.1);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/49/641-S/1994/1252);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/49/650);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/49/651);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/49/716);

(m) Letter dated 22 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/82);

(n) Letter dated 28 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/85);

(o) Letter dated 7 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/88);

(p) Letter dated 27 May 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/168);

(q) Letter dated 20 June 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/183-S/1994/733);

(r) Letter dated 22 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/186);

(s) Letter dated 6 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/218-S/1994/801);

(t) Letter dated 20 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/270-E/1994/116);

(u) Letter dated 22 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/273);

(v) Letter dated 14 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/394);

(w) Letter dated 29 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/455);

(x) Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/719);

(y) Letter dated 2 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/15);

(z) Letter dated 11 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/16);

(aa) Letter dated 11 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/17);

(bb) Letter dated 15 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/19);

(cc) Letter dated 21 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/22);

(dd) Letter dated 22 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/23);

(ee) Letter dated 6 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/28);

(ff) Letter dated 6 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/29);

(gg) Letter dated 8 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/30).

7. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 100 (d):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (A/49/668);

(b) Letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/5);

(c) Letter dated 20 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/8);

(d) Letter dated 20 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/49/10).